

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Oregon Wire Products LLC

Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Wire Manufacturer Simplifies Process for Wire Clips

Client Profile:

Oregon Wire Products LLC, located in Portland, Oregon, was founded in 1973. The company manufactures wire-fabricated products and currently employs 65 people.

Situation:

Oregon Wire Products produces several products which require simple u-shaped clips (sod staples and Christmas wreath rings). The clips were being manufactured on a 4-slide forming press which had incurred significant wear through many years of service and millions of parts. It was desired to replace this process with a simpler and faster machine since a 4-slide press was capable of producing more complicated parts (bends in more than one plane). Oregon Wire Products learned about the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, through a brief chance encounter and had previously contacted them about assistance on another project. Once again, the company contacted OMEP for assistance.

Solution:

OMEP consultant Mark Biederbeck remembered a simple, but custom designed press that was considered at one time for another client for a similarly-shaped part. Further investigation performed by OMEP showed that the simple press would be extremely cost-effective (lower cost, faster speeds, better quality) over a new or rebuilt 4-slide press which was the only other alternative. OMEP arranged for Oregon Wire Products to purchase the machine, with some additional modifications, to run the different types and sizes of parts. After the analysis was complete, Oregon Wire Products installed the machine, and it continues to be effective beyond their expectations.

Results:

- * Allowed for less-skilled operator to run machine.
- * Increased production of more complex parts on 4-slide press.
- * Lowered labor costs.
- * Increased capacity at lower cost.
- * Improved quality and reduced set-up time to run different parts.

Testimonial:

"This equipment has saved us time, money and opportunity to get new accounts. We are planning on purchasing another machine in the near future. This machine is twice as fast and operates with one quarter the parts as our other machines. I felt Mark went the extra mile for us, not only on this machine but other equipment as well.

Jim Phillips, Plant Manager

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